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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
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CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

September 17, 2009

Chairman Nathaniel Ford
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Transbay Joint Powers Authority
201 Mission Street, Suite 2100
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Chairman Ford,

The California High-Speed Rail Authority in its program-level EIR/EIS documents has identified the Transbay Transit Terminal as its preferred terminus station location in San Francisco. That remains the case today, as the Authority continues its environmental studies for its project EIR/EIS on the San Francisco to San Jose section of the high speed train system. Based on its program documents and its continuing work, the Authority supports the development of the Transbay Terminal as a multi-modal transportation center and supports your agency's application for Track 1 funding from the Federal Railroad Administration.

As required by Federal and State environmental laws and regulations, the Authority must consider alternatives that can potentially alleviate anticipated environmental impacts associated with its proposed project, while also meeting project objectives. To that end, the Authority is conducting the necessary alternatives evaluation, including reviewing alternatives suggested to it during scoping. While the Authority has a duty to consider options and to document that consideration, this does not mean that the final outcome will be different than the program-level work. A robust discussion of issues is occurring, and I have asked our counsel to respond directly to your counsel's letter.

There are many challenges before us as we pursue the development of California's high speed train system. We look forward to working with you and your staff to meet these challenges and to secure transportation improvements that serve the needs of both of our agencies and benefit California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curt Pringle", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curt Pringle
Chairman